

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168504

EXDIS, FOR ASS'T SEC'Y HOLBROOKE. EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OVIP (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD)

SUBJECT: ETTER FROM LEE KUAN YEW

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1. LETTER FROM LEE KUAN YEW, DATED JUNE 24, ARRIVED TODAY.
TEXT FOLLOWS.

2. QUOTE. DEAR MR. HOLBROOKE,

I HAVE JUST FINISHED, AS BED-TIME READING FOR 21 JUNE, YOUR
SPEECH MADE IN HAWAII ON JUNE 16, AS I RATTLE THIS NOTE INTO
MY RECORDER. IT IS A PLUS FOR EAST ASIA, AND THE PACIFIC.
YOU HAVE KEPT ATTENTION FOCUSSED ON YOUR BAILIWICK.

THE CONSISTENT EMPHASIS ON US-EAST ASIA ECONOMIC RELATIONS,
FIRST ENUNCIATED IN VANCE'S SPEECH TO THE ASIA SOCIETY IN
NEW YORK, JUNE 29, 1977, IN BILATERAL TRADE AND EXPORTS OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 168504

US INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, BEARS ANNUAL REPETITION WITH FIG-
URES BROUGHT UP TO DATE. OUTSIDE THE OIL-PRODUCING LDCS,
EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE THE MOST PROMISING GROWTH
AREAS. THIS IS INCREASINGLY RECOGNISED AND IS INFLUENCING
POLICIES OF US, JAPANESE AND EEC BANKERS AND INVESTORS.

YOUR POINT THAT HALF OF THIS US TRADE IS WITH JAPAN AND

HALF WITH THE OTHERS IS WORTH UNDERSCORING, AND HOW THIS

TRADE MEANS IN JOBS IN AMERICA IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND
AGRICULTURAL SECTORS. HOWEVER, I MUST SAY I WAS SHAKEN
TO READ HOW FEW AMERICANS WERE REQUIRED TO GENERATE

1 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF EXPORTS. NEVERTHELESS, YOUR
STOUT-HEARTED REJECTION OF PROTECTIONISM IS WORTH REPEAT-
ING.

THE PROSPECTS IN EAST ASIA LOOK A GREAT DEAL BETTER THAN
WHEN WE MET IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR. I WISH I COULD DENY
THAT THIS IS AS MUCH BECAUSE OF THE STUPIDITIES,
OBSESSIONS AND RIVALRIES OF OUR POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES,
AND THE CLAIM THAT IT IS THE OUTCOME OF OUR OWN GOOD
FORESIGHT, SYSTEMATIC PLANNING AND GOOD COUNTER-MEASURES.

MAY THE GODS ALWAYS PIT AGAINST EACH OTHER THOSE WHO
WISH US ILL.

BEST WISHES.

YOURS SINCERELY, LEE KUAN YEW. END QUOTE.
VANCE

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